

U.S. Oil Recovery

Post-Hurricane Harvey conditions of groundwater and soil at the U.S. Oil Recovery Superfund site are consistent with historical site conditions that existed before the hurricane made landfall. On September 15, 2017, site activities transitioned back to normal site operations after the hurricane response.

The U.S. Oil Recovery (USOR) Site is located in Pasadena, Texas, and consists of two properties at 200 North Richey Street and 400 North Richey Street, which are north of Highway 225. The Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) secured the Site prior to the landfall of Hurricane Harvey. On August 29, 2017, the PRPs reported that a portion of the Site at 200 North Richey Street (formerly used at one time as a municipal water treatment facility and subsequently as a privately-owned waste oil recycling facility) was flooded due to Hurricane Harvey and that an unknown amount of material was released. On September 4, 2017, EPA staff conducted an on-site inspection to assess conditions at the Site as a whole, and requested the PRPs to collect samples from the Site. On September 9, 2017, the PRPs reported that on September 6, 2017 there was a spill of an unknown quantity of stormwater from the 200 North Richey Street property. Also on September 9, 2017, the PRPs reported a 200-gallon discharge of stormwater from the 200 North Richey Street property. On September 13, 2017 in response to inquiries about a possible oil spill, an EPA On Scene Coordinator (OSC) conducted an inspection of nearby Vince Bayou and did not find any evidence of a black oily discharge or material from the Site.

400 North Richey Street: At the request of the EPA, the PRPs collected soil and groundwater samples on September 8 in areas inundated by the Hurricane. The results for these samples are consistent with pre-Hurricane samples and are not indicative of impacts or releases from the hurricane. Findings from soil sampling are generally consistent with background levels in the area. The groundwater sample concentrations were below the safe drinking water standards established by the EPA. Access is restricted to the Site. Therefore, there are no anticipated exposure routes impacting the public. The hurricane response is completed and Site activities have transitioned back to normal operations.

A Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is ongoing at the 400 North Richey Street property under the EPA oversight and will result in setting appropriate cleanup goals for that portion of this Site. The RI serves as the mechanism for collecting data to characterize site conditions, determine the nature of the waste, assess risk to human health and the environment, and if needed, conduct treatability testing to evaluate the potential performance and cost of the treatment technologies that are being considered. The FS is the mechanism for the development, screening, and detailed evaluation of alternative remedial actions.

200 North Richey Street: At the request of the EPA, the PRPs sampled stormwater standing in former wastewater treatment vessels associated with that property's former operations, removed excess water, and secured materials in the former wastewater treatment vessels. Post-hurricane samples from former wastewater treatment vessels show extremely low concentrations of organic chemicals and metals. All levels were below the safe drinking water standards established by the EPA. Additional activities included the removal of more than 300,000 gallons of stormwater from site vessels and have been completed. The site activities have transitioned back to normal operations.

After completion of the RI/FS, EPA will work with the State of Texas to develop the Record of Decision (ROD) that will outline the remedial alternative that will address the contaminants present at the Site. Where hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants will remain on Site above levels that allow for

unlimited use and unrestricted exposure, EPA is responsible for reviewing Superfund remedial actions at least every five years. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) requires that EPA report to Congress regarding these sites.